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Message Text

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12
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 AF-10 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /144 W
---------- 022152
O R 051041Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9978
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7749

E O 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IS
SUBJ: AUSTRIAN DECISION TO CEASE FACILITY FOR JEWISH EMIGRES

REF: TEL AVIV 7638

1. ON EVE OF ISRAEL'S MOST SOMBRE RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY YOM KIPPUR, PUBLIC MOOD IS MIX OF ANGER AND BITTERNESS AT CHANCELLOR KREISKY, BUT ALSO WARM GRATIDUE TO PRESIDENT NIXON FOR HIS STRONG SUPPORT AND DETERMINATION TO CONTNUE POLITICAL-DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE FOR REVERSAL OF AUSTRIAN DECISION. I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM CALL ON AMB DINITZ RE HIS FATHER'S DEATH AND HE WAS EMPHATICALLY THANKFUL TO PRESIDENT NIXON.

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2. CABINET MEETING OCTOBER 3 AND MEETINGS JEWISH AGENCY

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AND KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY COMMITTEE OCT 4
HAVE NOT PRODUCED NEW OPERATIVE APPROACH. EMBOFF IN OCT 5
CONVERSATION WITH AGENCY OFFICIAL APPEARED TO CONFIRM THIS,
ALTHOUGH PRESS CARRIES RUMOR OF LOW-LEVEL ISRAELI-AUSTRIAN TALKS
IN VIENNA ON ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS. CABINET CALLED ON GOA
TO ESCINDE PROMISE MADE TO TDRRORISTS, AND JEWISH AGENCY STATED
PUBLICLY IT WOULD NOT CONSENT TO CLOSURE OF SCHOENAU TRANSIT
FACILITIES WHICH ARE SAFEST AND MOST EFFICIENT AVAILABLE. DAYAN
IN BRITISH TV INTERVIEW OCT 4 STATED THAT
CLOSURE OF SCHOENAU WOULD CERTAINLY NOT ELIMINATE SECURITY
PROBLEMS IN TRANSIT OF SOVIET EMIGRES THROUGH AUSTRIA.

3. WHILE GOI PREFERENCE CLEARLY REMAINS FOR A REVERSAL OF GOA
DECISION, GOI IS UNDER STRONG PRESSURE AT HOME TO COME UP WITH
SOME KIND OF SOLUTION WELL BEFORE OCTOBER 30 NATIONAL ELECTIONS.
I THEREFORE JUDGE THAT GOI RECEPTIVITY TO ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS
WILL INCREASE IN DAYS AHEAD.

4. FAILURE OF MRS MEIR'S PERSONAL INTERVENTION WITH KREISKY
HAS PRODUCED RASH OF CRITICAL COMMENT. RIGHTWING OPPOSITION
LEADERS, THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY AND NON-ALIGNMENT
PRESS HAVE QUESTIONED WISDOM OF MEIR TRIP. TWO CABINET
MINISTERS (KIL AND SHAPIRO) REPORTEDLY ALSO QUESTIONED ADVIS-
ABILITY OF TRIP. THIS CAN ONLY INCREASE PRESSURES ON MRS MEIR.

5. PRESS IS NOW REPORTING IDEAS FLOATED BY AUSTRIANS FOR
SHORTENING TRANSIT TIME, USE OF AIRPORT HOTELS, AND TRANSIT
FLIGHTS FROM MOSCOW THROUGH VIENNA TO TEL AVIV. THIS HAS
SUPPLANTED TO SOME EXTENT EARLIER ISRAELI ANGER, REFLECTED IN
PROPOSALS OF INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER EDITORIALISTS INCLUDING:
(A) INTENSIFIED POLITICAL PRESSURE CAMPAIGN BY WORLD JEWRY,
(B) TRADE BOYCOTT OF AUSTRIAN PFODUCTS: (C) TOURIST BOYCOTT: AND
(D) INDEFINITE RECALL OF ISRAELI AMBASSADOR. NEVERTHELESS,
MOOD OF ISOLATION AND EVEN SIEGE PREVAILS, UNDERLINED BY
WAVE OF RALLIES AGAINST AUSTRIAN DECISION THROUGHOUT COUNTRY,
AS NATION MOVES INTO ITS OLEMN YOM KIPPUR.

6. IN CONSIDERING WAYS USG CAN ASSIST IN FACILITATING IM-
MIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS TO ISRAEL, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE
DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO GET GOA TO REVERSE DECISION TO CLOSE
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SCHOENAU. IF AND WHEN WE ARE CERTAIN THAT REVERSAL WILL NOT
BE FORTHCOMING, IT SEEMS TO ME OUR SECOND PRIORITY SHOULD BE TO
GET MODIFICATION OF DECISION IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PERMIT JEWISH
AGENCY TO CONTINUE USING SOME FACILITY AUSTRIA. HUMANITARIAN
CONSIDERATIONS ASIDE, SOME ARRANGEMENTS WHICH CONTINUE TO
UTILIZE AUSTRIAN SOIL SEEM TO ME TO BE IMPORTANT ONPRINCIPLE
WITH RESPECT TO DEFLATING TERRORIST
CLAIMS OF VICTORY IN THE INTEREST OF BROADER BATTLE AGAINST

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TERRORIST BLACKMAIL.

7. THE UN OPTION- IF IT EVER REALLY EXISTED - HAS BEEN SHOT DOWN BY WALDHEIM AND THE GOI WOULD HAVE BEEN LOTH TO ACCEPT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT ANYWAY. PERHAPS, AS GENEVA SUGGESTS, FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE UNDER ICEM SPONSORSHIP IS WELL WORTH EXPLORING, IF IT IS WITHIN THE ORBIT OF ITS CHARTER, SINCE SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT COULD OFFER ADVANTAGES WHICH WOULD GIVE FACE-SAVER FOR AUSTRIANS AND ALSO MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAELIS: (A) SUCH ARRANGEMENT WOULD KEEP SOVIET IMMIGRANTS COMING TO ISRAEL THROUGH AUSTRIA AND SHOW FEDAYEEN THEIR ACTION HAD NOT ACTUALLY BEEN BRILLIANT SUCCESS. (B) ICEM SPONSORSHIP WOULD DEMONSTRATE MORE BROAD-BASED SUPPORT THAN IN CASE OF ANOTHER COUNTRY PROVIDING FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE. AND (C) MULTINATIONAL SPONSORSHIP WOULD ALSO BE LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO ARAB TERRORIST PRESSURE, ALTHOUGH TERRORIST EFFORTS LIKELY TO CONTNUE.

8. IN MAKING ABOVE COMMENTS, I RECOGNIZE US IS NOT PRIMARY ACTOR IN THIS TRAGIC SITUATION AND THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE OUT IN FRONT OF PARTIES CONCERNED. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE INVOLVED IN IMPORTANT SUPPORTING ROLE AND I ASSUME DEPT IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION WHICH MIGHT ENCOURAGE SATISFACTORY SOLUTION. PROLONGED IRRESOLUTION OF THIS SITUATION, OF COURSE, PARTICULARLY IN PRE-ELECTION PERIOD, WOULD STRENGTHEN HAND OF THOSE ELEMENTS OF ISRAELI LEADERSHIP WHO WOULD COUNSEL STRONG ACTIONS AGAINST ARAB TERRORISTS IN THE AREA WHICH WOULD NOT BE IN INTEREST OF GENERAL US POLICY IN MID EAST.
KEATING

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